

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /043 W

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R 211737Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2873

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS CARACAS 4457

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, VE, CO

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN LEADERS CONDEMN ASSASSINATION OF CTC PRESIDENT

1. VENEZUELAN POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS OF ALL PERSUASIONS HAVE CONDEMNED THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTC), JOSE RAQUEL MERCADO. ON APRIL 20, PARTY SPOKESMEN FOR ACCION DEMOCRATICA, COPEI, THE REPUBLICAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, THE MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM (MAS), THE MARXIST MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT, AND THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST PARTY ALL EXPRESSED THEIR REVULSION AT THE "SENSELESS" ASSASSINATION. TYPICAL OF THE VARIOUS COMMENTS WAS THAT OF LEFTIST MAS DEPUTY AND LABOR LEADERS ELOY TORRES WHO SAID MERCADO'S DEATH WAS A "STUPIDITY" AND A "CRIME THAT WILL NOT BENEFIT ANYONE AND WILL BOOMERANG AGAINST ITS PERPETRATORS.Z PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND THE VENEZUELAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV) HAVE SENT CONDOLENCE MESSAGES TO THE CTC.

2. LABOR MINISTER JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ WILL HEAD THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION AT THE MERCADO FUNERAL APRIL 21 IN BOGOTA. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE DEPUTY AUGUSTO MALAVE VILLALBA (AD), DEPUTY RAFAEL LEON LEON (COPEI), JUAN DIAZ (COPEI), ANDRES AGELVIS PRATO (INDEPENDENT-COPEI), SENATOR JOSE GONZALEZ NAVARRO (AD), DEPUTY ANGEL ZERPA MIRABAL (FDP-AD), CESAR GIL (AD), JESUS URBIETTA (MAS), ISAAC OLIVERA (MEP), AND RAMON PETIT (URD), ALL MEMBERS OF THE CTV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA04457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760152-0018
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760440/aaaabhuz.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 AUG 2004 by schaeafaj>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN LEADERS CONDEMN ASSASSINATION OF CTC PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINS, ELAB, VE, CO, CTC, (MERCADO, JOSE RAQUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006